

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6785

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB DA
SUBJ: LO OFFICIALS SEEK MEETING WITH AFL-CIO

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) PRESIDENT THOMAS NIELSEN HAS WRITTEN TO AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY ABOUT THE IMPENDING VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF TWO LEADING LO PERSONALITIES. NIELSEN APPARENTLY ASKED THAT AN OPPORTUNITY BE FOUND FOR DISCUSSION WITH APPROPRIATE AFL-CIO OFFICIALS OF THE AFL-CIO/USGOVERNMENT VIEWS AND RELATIONSHIPS ON UNEMPLOYMENT MEASURES, INFLATION AND LABOR LAW REFORM. THE LO OFFICIALS WILL WANT TO TOUCH ON SOME INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS, BUT THEIR REAL INTEREST IS IN DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE US.

2. THE LO REPRESENTATIVES ARE HOLGER JENSEN AND POUL NYRUP RASMUSSEN. JENSEN IS AN ECONOMIST AND HEAD OF THE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT OF THE LO. HE HAS BEEN A MAJOR PARTICIPANT FOR MANY YEARS IN THE BIENNIAL DANISH COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS. HE ENJOYS THE ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE OF PRESIDENT NIELSEN. NYRUP RASMUSSEN IS A MEMBER OF JENSEN'S STAFF. HE HAS BEEN ASKED TO PRESENT A PAPER TO THE OECD CONFERENCE AND IS CONSIDERED AN IMPORTANT RISING FIGURE IN THE LO. HE TOO ENJOYS NIELSEN'S CONFIDENCE.

3. JENSEN AND NYRUP RASMUSSEN ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON JULY 9 AND LEAVE AFTERNOON OF JULY 14. THEY ARE UNCERTAIN REGARDING HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS BUT WILL BE EASY TO MEET AT THE CONFERENCE SIDE.

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4. COMMENT: EMBASSY WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY FOR MEETING BETWEEN LO AND AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVES. WE BELIEVE MORE FREQUENT CONTACTS AND FRANK EXPRESSIONS OF VIEWS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THESE FRIENDLY ORGANIZATIONS CAN STRENGTHEN THEIR RELATIONSHIP. ANY HELP THE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE TO FACILITATE A MEETING WILL BE APPRECIATED.
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